

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus which accesses a database that stores identifiers identifying reference objects, items of characteristic quantity information to be used for recognizing, in image data, ~~respective image objects objects~~, and items of color information of the respective reference objects, the characteristic quantity information and the color information ~~are being~~ correlated with each other for the respective reference objects, comprising:

means for performing image recognition processing on image data using the items of characteristic quantity information stored in the database and for acquiring color information of an image object that has been recognized in the image data by the image recognition processing; and

means for searching the database to retrieve the color information indicating a color of the image object recognized by the image recognition processing and for identifying a color space of the image data by comparing the acquired color information with the retrieved color information.

2. (Original) The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

means for performing statistical processing on identification results of color spaces of the image data that was previously processed; and

means for performing prescribed processing using a result of the statistical processing.

3. (Currently Amended) The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the acquired color information of the image object that has been recognized in the

image data is acquired by converting the image data into a reference color space a plurality of times using different conversion parameters each time, each of the different conversion parameters corresponding to a different color space.

4. (Original) The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the color information stored in the database includes at least one or more of: information indicating a saturation range, information indicating a hue range, and information indicating a target color.

5. (Original) The image processing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the result of the statistical processing includes at least one or more of: a saturation histogram, a hue histogram, and an average color.

6. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus which accesses a database that stores identifiers of reference objects, items of characteristic quantity information to be used for recognizing, in image data, ~~respective image objects objects~~, and items of color information of the respective reference objects, the characteristic quantity information and the color information are correlated with each other for the-respective reference objects, the image processing apparatus comprising:

a controller that: (1) performs image recognition processing on image data using the items of characteristic quantity information stored in the database, and acquires color information of an image object that has been recognized in the image data by the image recognition processing; and (2) searches the database to retrieve the color information indicating a color of the image object recognized by the image recognition processing and identifies a color space of the image data by comparing the acquired color information with the retrieved color information.

7. (Original) The image processing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the controller also: (3) performs statistical processing on identification results of color spaces of

the image data that was previously processed; and (4) performs prescribed processing using a result of the statistical processing.

8. (Currently Amended) The image processing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the controller acquires the color information of the image object that has been recognized in the image data by converting the image data into a reference color space a plurality of times using different conversion parameters each time, each of the different conversion parameters corresponding to a different color space.

9. (Original) The image processing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the color information stored in the database includes at least one or more of: information indicating a saturation range, information indicating a hue range, and information indicating a target color.

10. (Original) The image processing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the result of the statistical processing includes at least one or more of: a saturation histogram, a hue histogram, and an average color.

11-20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) An image processing method using an image processing apparatus which accesses a database that stores identifiers of reference objects, items of characteristic quantity information to be used for recognizing, in image data, respective image objects, and items of color information of the respective reference objects, the characteristic quantity information and the color information are correlated with each other for the respective reference objects, comprising the steps of:

performing image recognition processing on image data using the items of characteristic quantity information stored in the database, and acquiring color information of an image object that has been recognized in the image data by the image recognition processing; and

searching the database to retrieve the color information indicating a color of the image object recognized by the image recognition processing, and identifying a color space of the image data by comparing the acquired color information with the retrieved color information.

22. (Original) The image processing method according to claim 21, further comprising:

performing statistical processing on identification results of color spaces of the image data that was previously processed; and

performing prescribed processing using a result of the statistical processing.

23. (Currently Amended) The image processing method according to claim 21, wherein the acquired color information of the image object that has been recognized in the image data is acquired by converting the image data into a reference color space a plurality of times using different conversion parameters each time, each of the different conversion parameters corresponding to a different color space.

24. (Original) The image processing method according to claim 21, wherein the color information stored in the database includes at least one or more of: information indicating a saturation range, information indicating a hue range, and information indicating a target color.

25. (Original) The image processing method according to claim 22, wherein the result of the statistical processing includes at least one or more of: a saturation histogram, a hue histogram, and an average color.

26. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ A computer-readable storage medium storing an image processing program for causing a computer which accesses a database that stores identifiers of reference objects, items of characteristic quantity information to be used for recognizing, in image data, respective image objects ~~objects~~, and items of color information

of the respective reference objects, the characteristic quantity information and the color information are correlated with each other for the respective reference objects, to execute the steps of:

performing image recognition processing on image data using the items of characteristic quantity information stored in the database, and acquiring color information of an image object that has been recognized in the image data by the image recognition processing; and

searching the database to retrieve the color information indicating a color of the image object recognized by the image recognition processing, and identifying a color space of the image data by comparing the acquired color information with the retrieved color information.

27-32. (Cancelled)